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Terrorism Review

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1 November 1984

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Terrorism Review

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1 November 1984

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- 1 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
3 Highlights
9 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED] b1, b3
[REDACTED]
19 Syria and the Shia Extremists in Lebanon [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
23 Exit From Terrorism [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
27 Publications of Interest
29 Chronology of Terrorism--1984
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*This review is published every other week by the Directorate of Intelligence.
Appropriate articles produced by other elements of the CIA as well as by other
agencies of the US Intelligence Community will be considered for publication.
Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to [REDACTED]*

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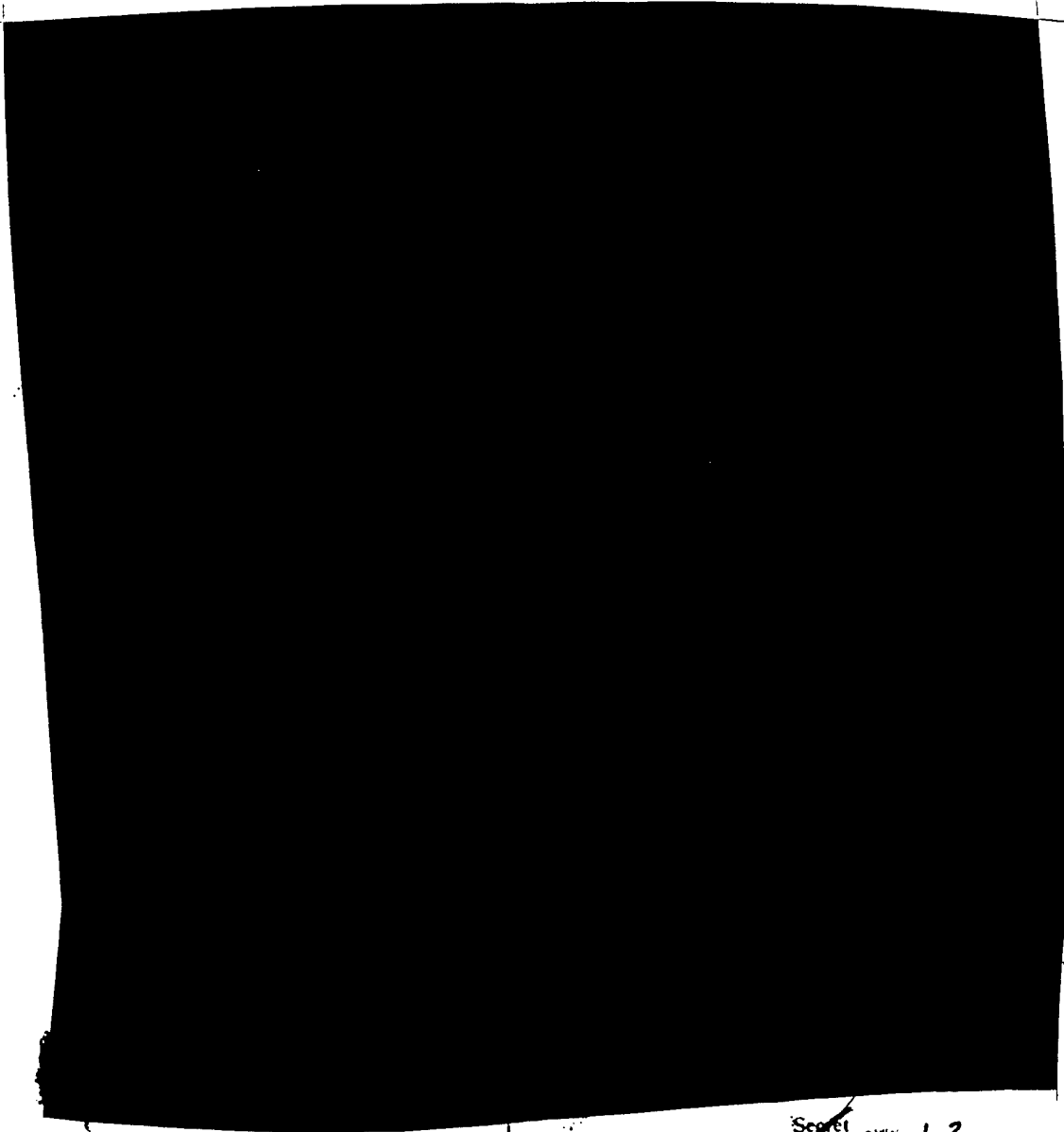
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Terrorism Review ● b3

1 November 1984

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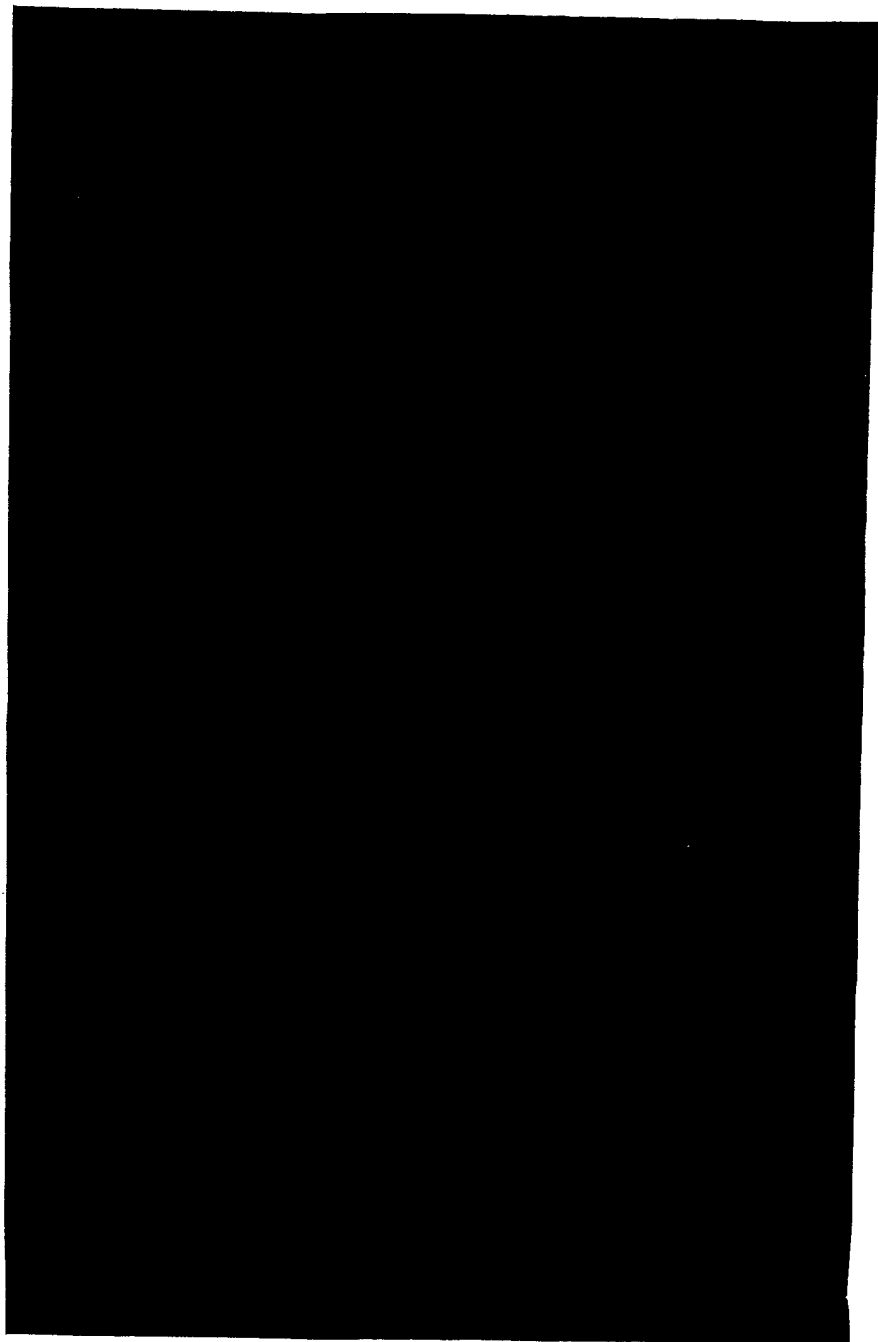
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Highlights

Alert Items

Lebanon

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A Multitude of Car Bomb Threats

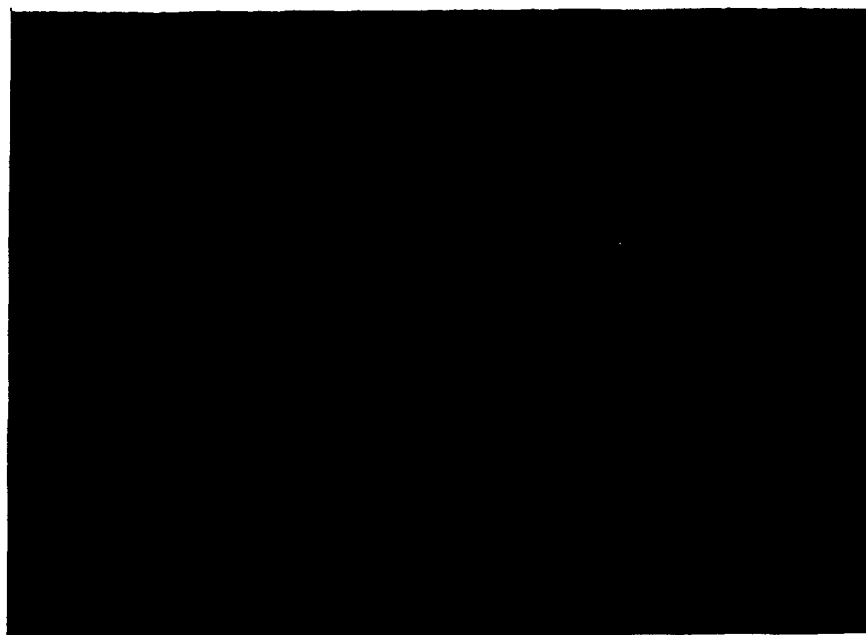
Since the 20 September vehicle bombing of the US Embassy Annex, many unconfirmed reports of cars loaded with explosives cruising around Beirut looking for an opportunity to strike at a significant Western or Lebanese Government target. It is common after a dramatic incident like the Embassy bombing to see a spate of such reports. At the same time, there probably are terrorists planning more car bomb attacks, but they will be trying hard to keep their plans secret because surprise is essential to success.

Sudan

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El Salvador

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1 November 1982

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Key Indicators

Jordan

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Sri Lanka

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Trinidad and Tobago

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Caribbean

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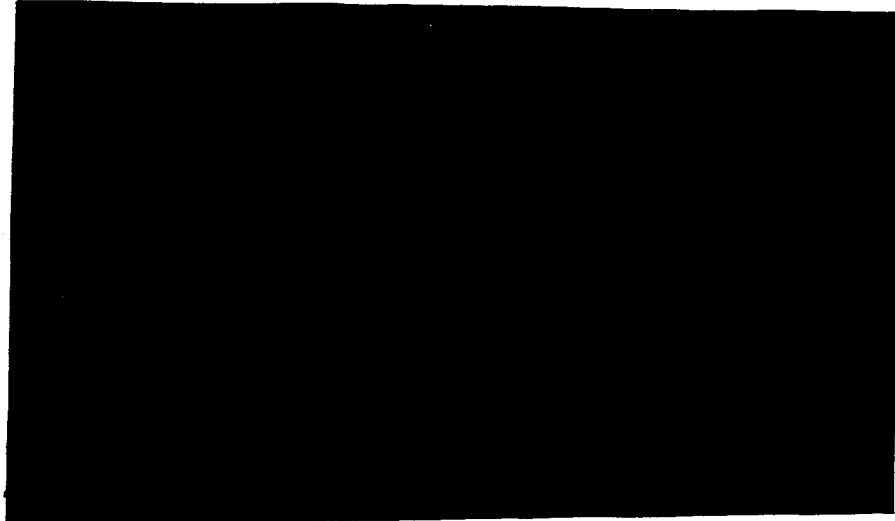
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Significant Developments

Lebanon

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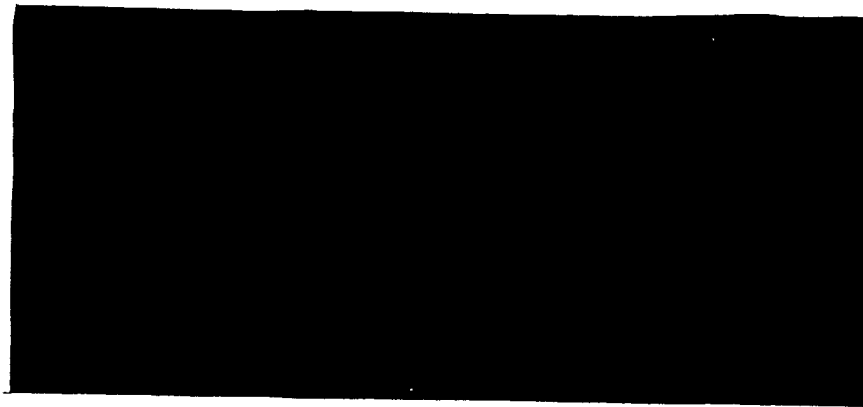
Italy

Indictments Handed Down in Papal Case

On 26 October in Rome, Investigating Magistrate Ilario Martella announced his decision to indict three Bulgarians and four Turks on charges of complicity in the 1981 attempt to kill Pope John Paul II. Mehmet Ali Agca, currently serving a life sentence for the shooting, will stand trial on a new charge of illegally importing the weapon he used. The deposition reportedly disclosed that ballistic tests and an examination of the trajectory of the shots indicated that a third bullet—which has never been found—was fired, and accused alleged Turkish coconspirator Oral Celik, currently at large, of being the second gunman. No trial date has been set.

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Portugal

FP-25 Members Face Trial But Group Goes on Bombing

On 15 October the Lisbon prosecutor's office charged 78 people, including Otelio Saraiva de Carvalho, a hero of the 1974 Portuguese Revolution, with membership in the terrorist group Popular Forces of 25 April (FP-25). Fifty of those charged were already in prison, and all but Carvalho and one other had been on a hunger strike protesting their close confinement. With the conclusion of the judicial preliminaries, the prisoners were transferred to the normal prison regime, whereupon the hunger strikers declared victory and began eating again. The trials will not begin for at least four months, to allow the defendants time to prepare. b3

On the same day, FP-25 members remaining at large tried to bomb five French-owned business facilities—four banks and an insurance agency—claiming solidarity with the Spanish Basque separatist terrorists. Only two of the bombs exploded (they were made of old dynamite), and police believe them to be the work of second-stringers just trying to demonstrate that FP-25 remains operational. b3

RPG Attack Against US Embassy Misfires

On 29 October in Lisbon, two rocket-propelled grenades (bazooka rounds), mounted on an improvised launcher and aimed at the new US Embassy were discovered by children playing in a nearby vacant lot. The device had misfired, owing to a malfunction in the electrical detonating system. No one claimed credit for the aborted attack, although FP-25 may have been responsible. Two days earlier, a telephone caller representing himself as a member of FP-25 had falsely reported a car bomb attack against the Embassy. b3

Cyprus

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Sudan

Captive Priests Released Unharmd

On 19 October in Mayom, the three priests captured by the insurgent group Anya Nya II on 4 September were released unharmed. The American, British, and Sudanese clergymen said that the disorganized rebel band that had originally captured them, during an attack on the town of Bentiu, decided to free them five days later, but, before it could do so, it was intercepted by a larger force, which took over custody of the priests and tried unsuccessfully to extract a ransom from the Sudanese Government and Catholic Church.

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Sri Lanka

Capital Racked by 10 Tamil Terrorist Bombs

On the morning of 22 October in Colombo, 10 explosions killed three persons and wounded 11 others. Three additional bombs were found by Army bomb disposal units. The targets included railway stations, road junctions, and residential areas. One bomb went off near an art gallery where President Jayewardene was scheduled to appear that evening and a second detonated near the home of a staunch anti-Tamil government minister. The bombs were placed by Tamil separatist terrorists who were hoping to draw government security forces back from the north toward the capital.

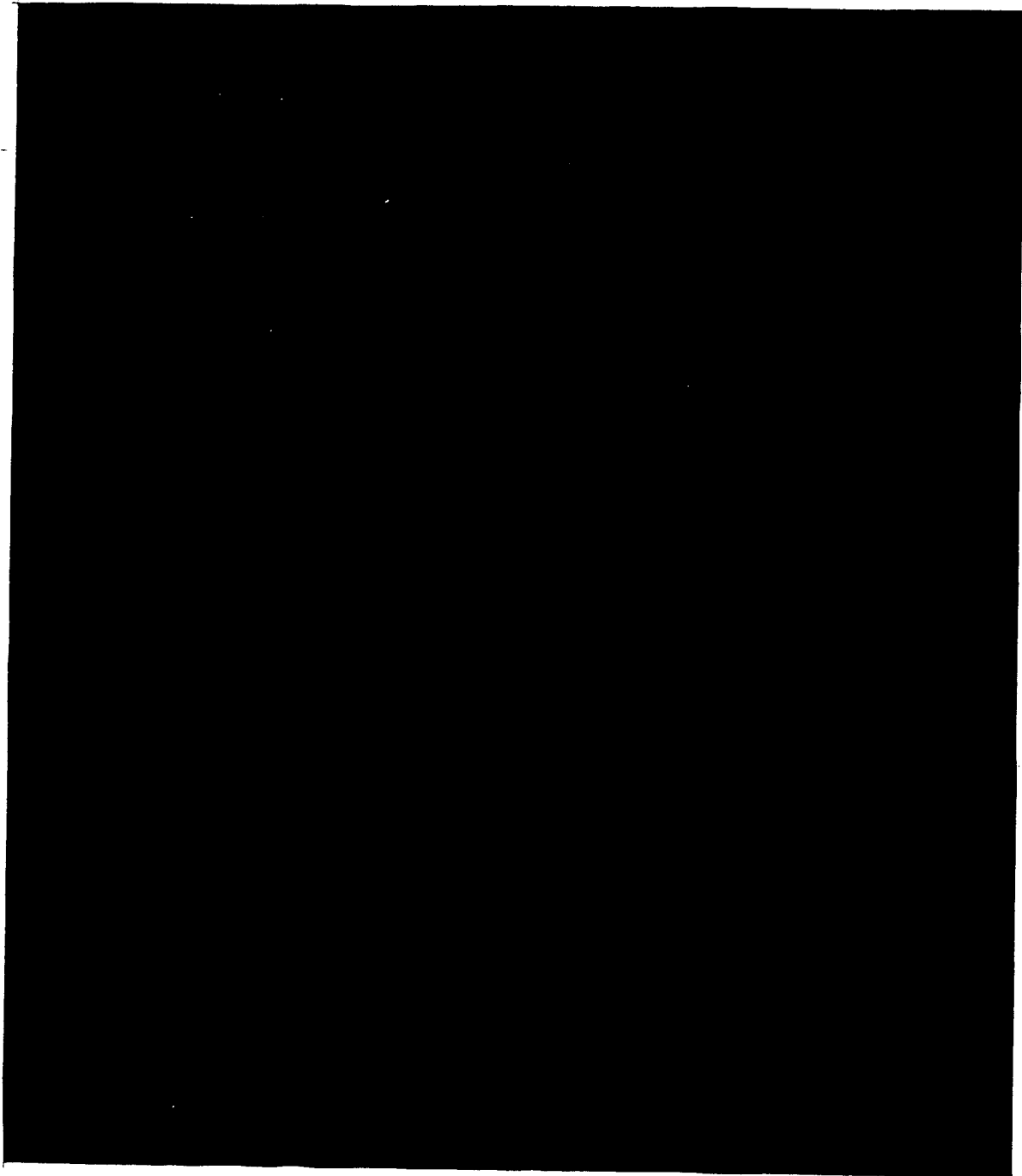
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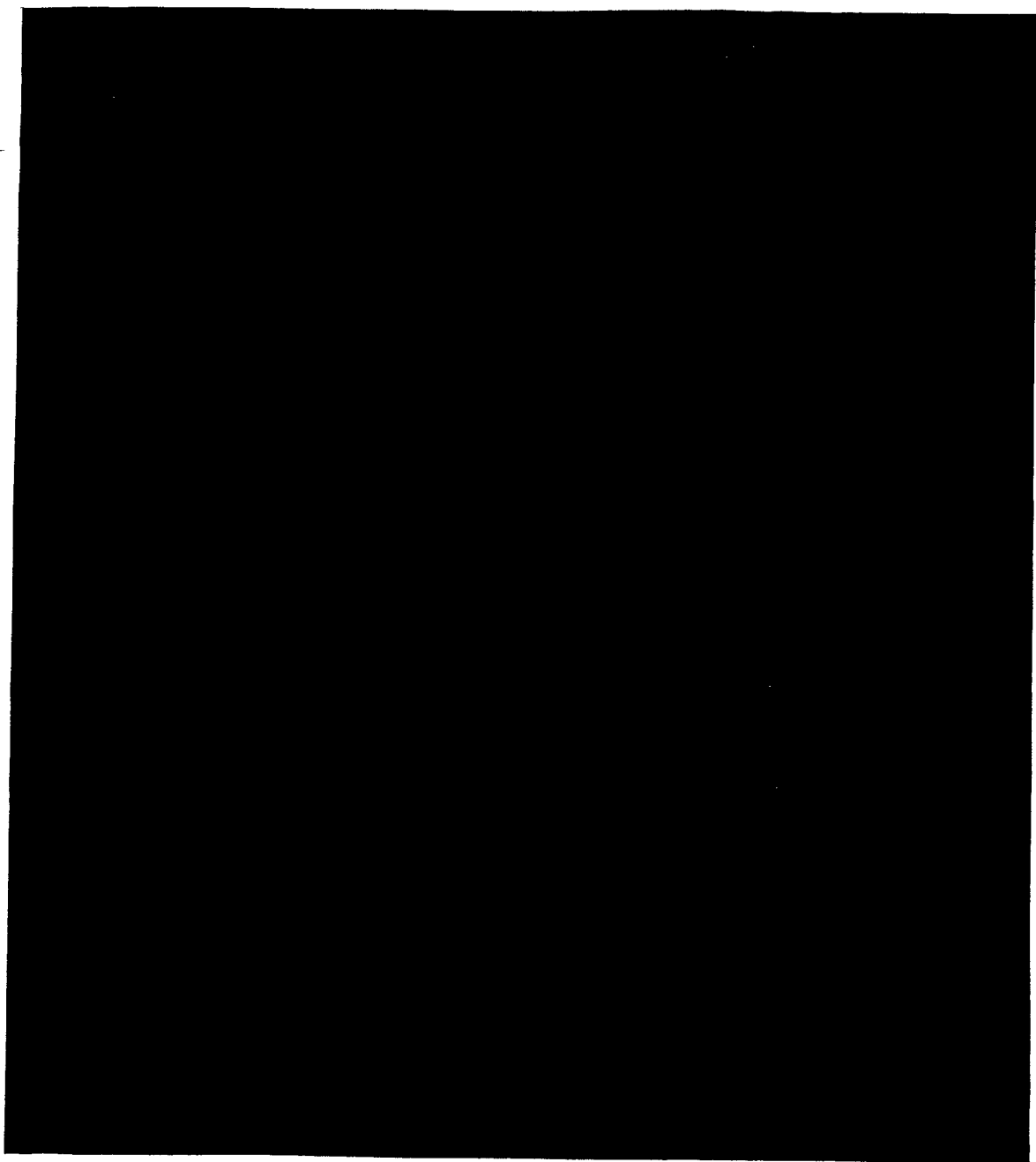
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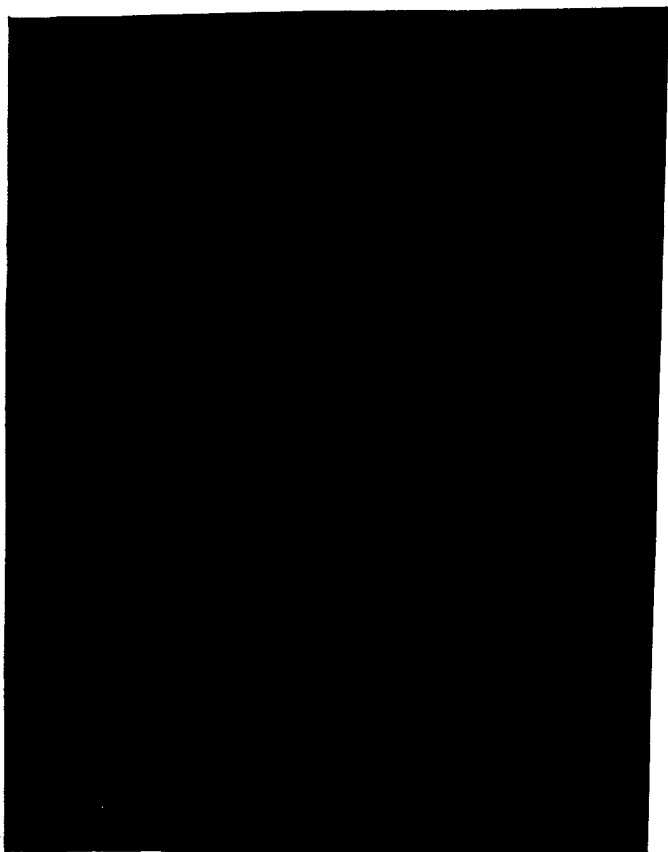
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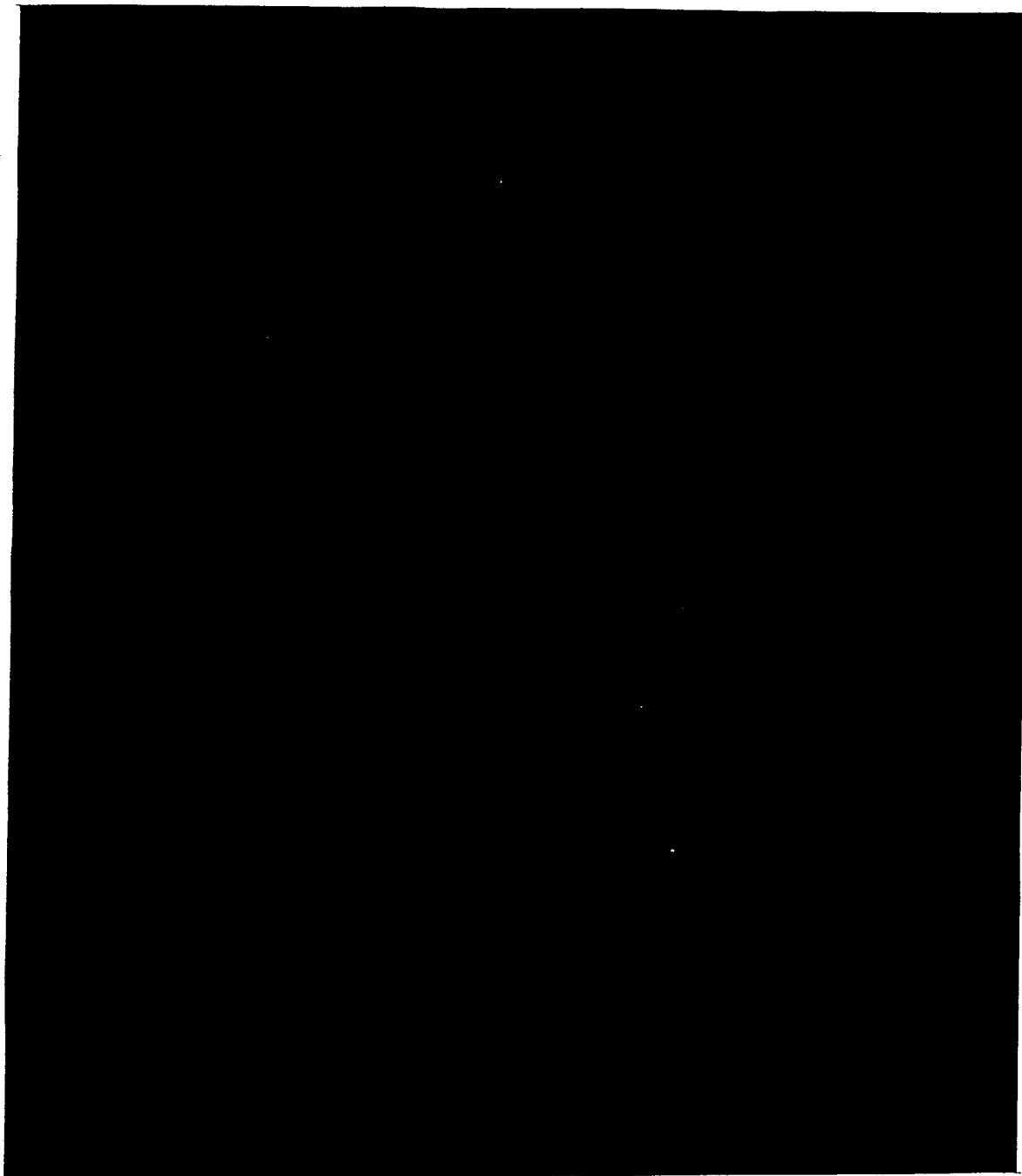
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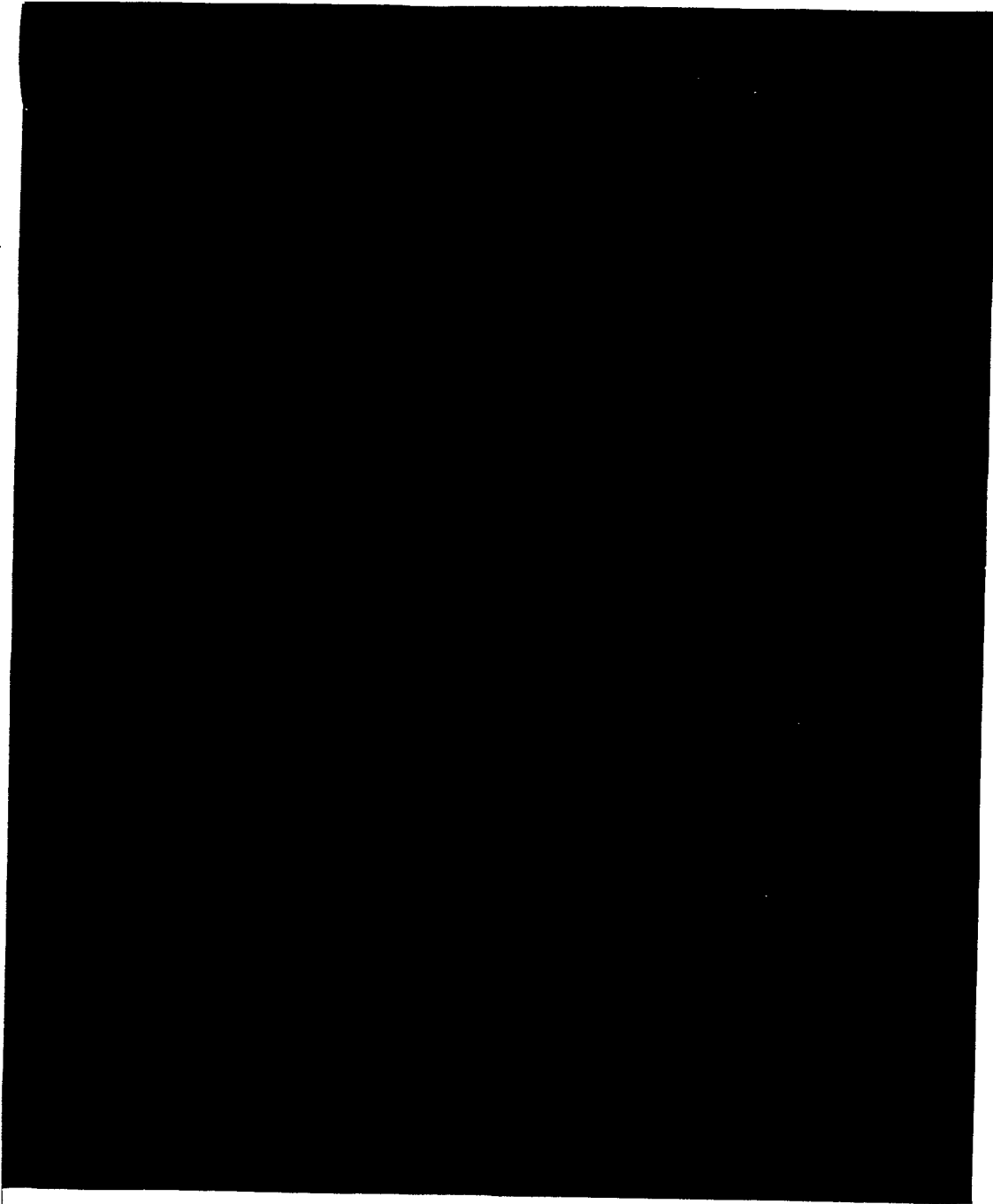
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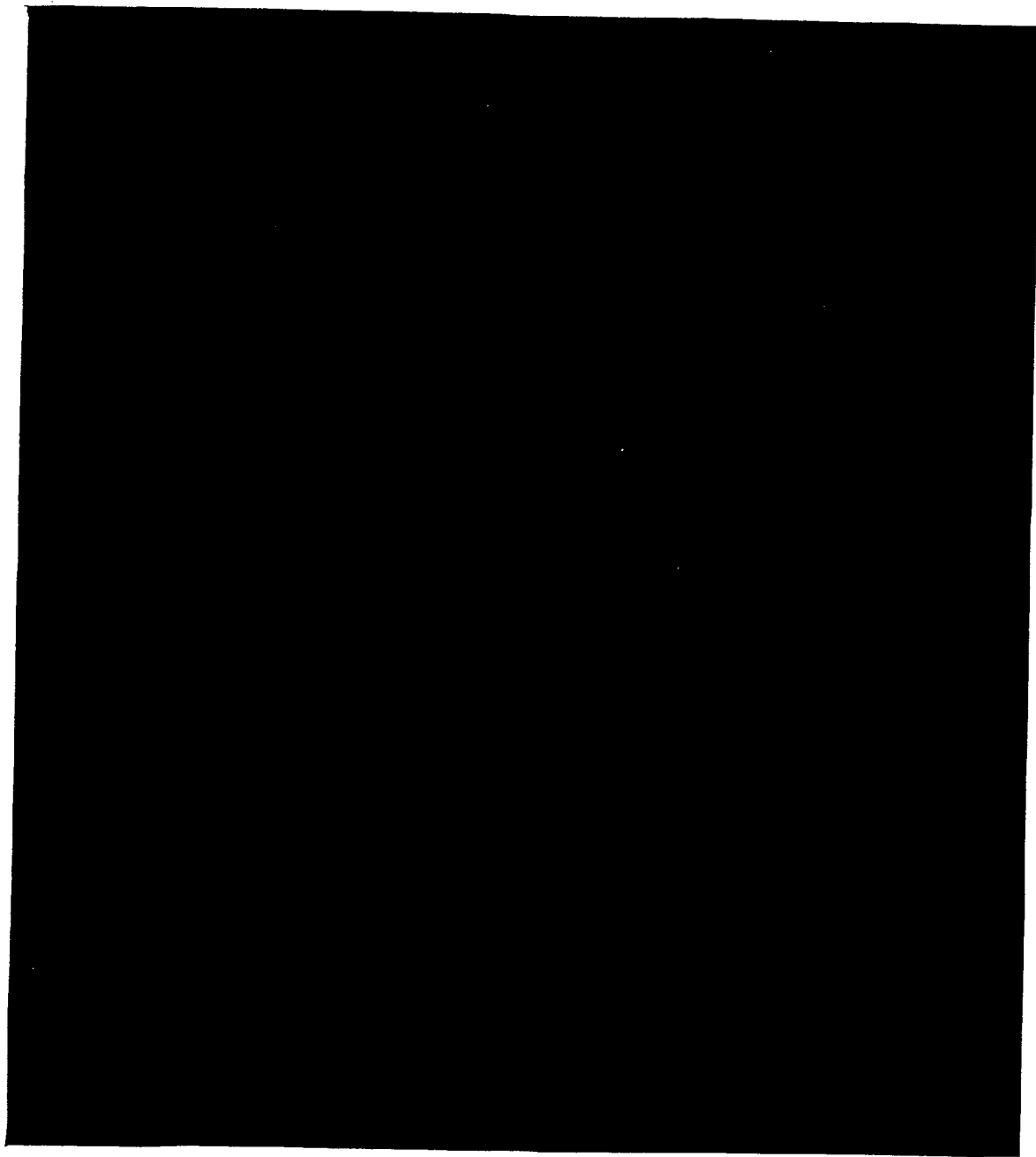


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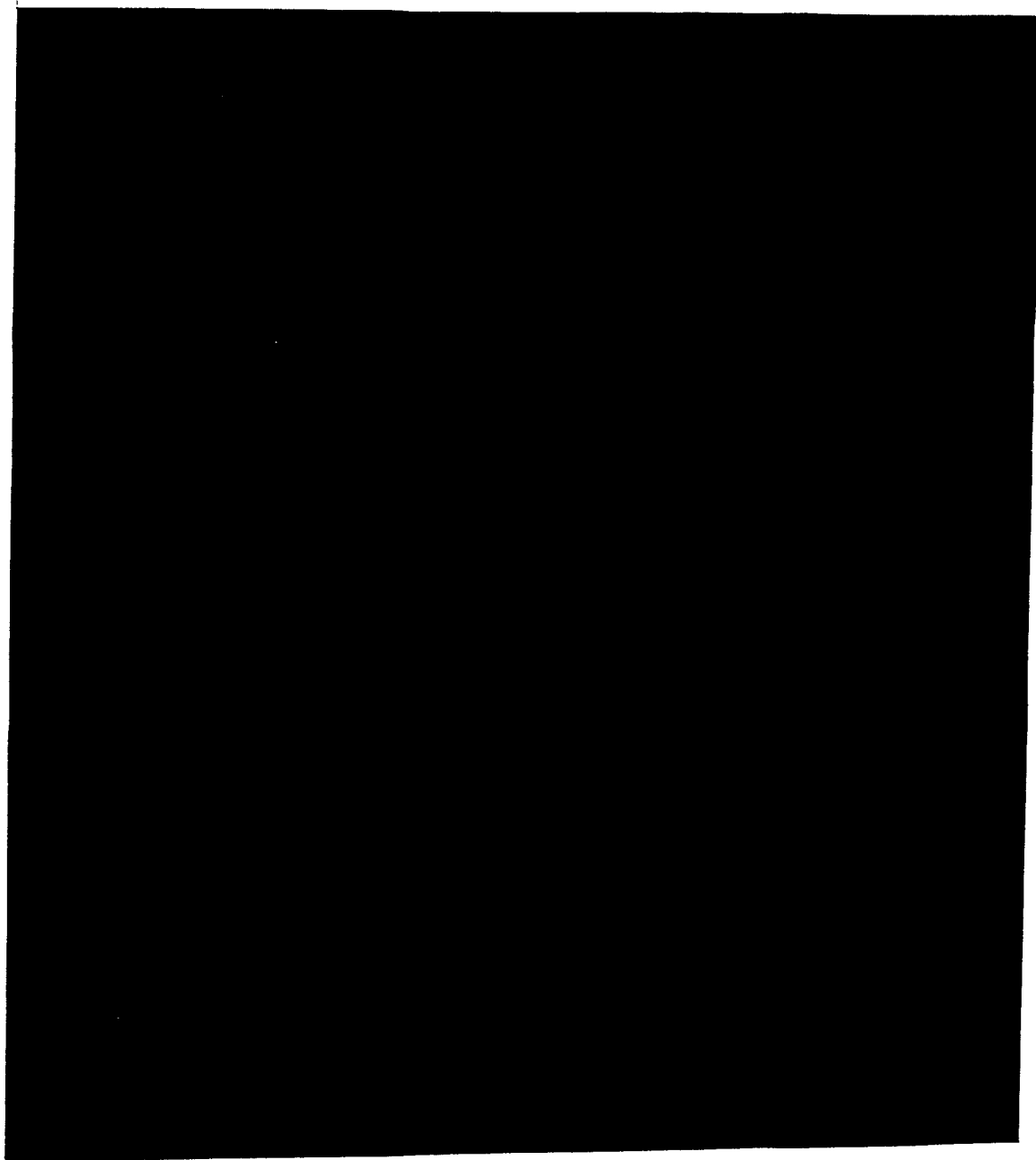
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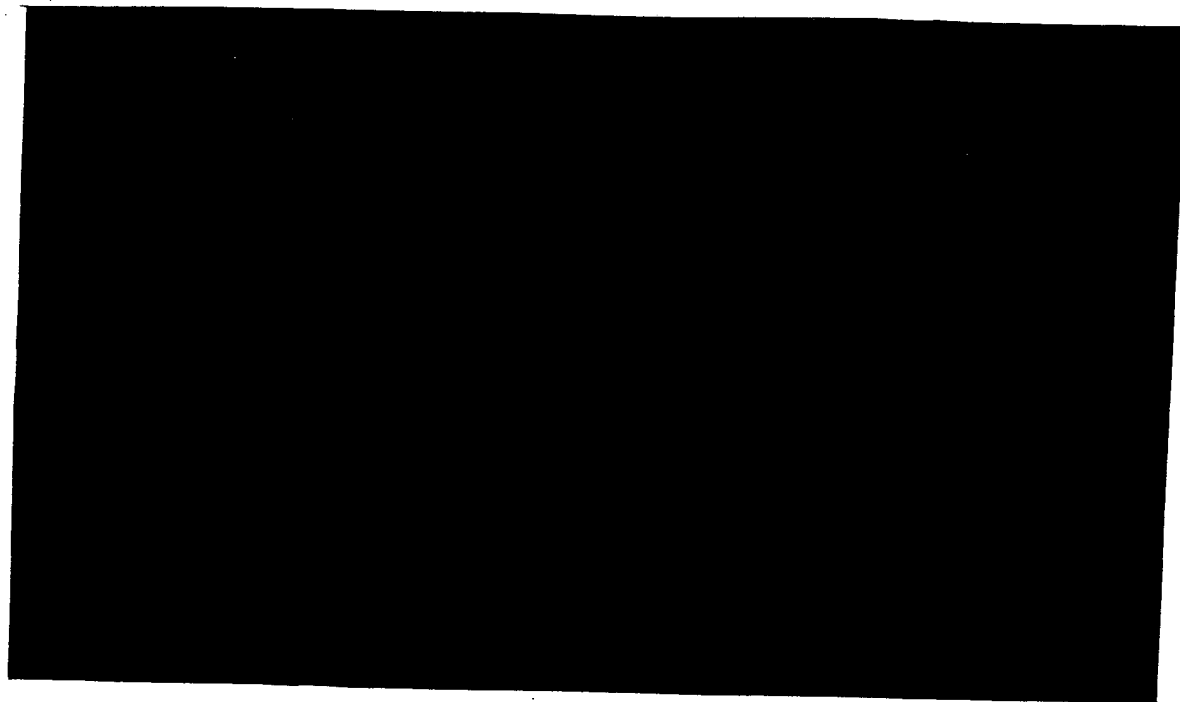
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Syria and the Shia Extremists in Lebanon

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Throughout 1984, Syrian relations with the radical Shia groups in Lebanon have fluctuated between cooperation and confrontation. Although Syria has restricted the activities of the radical Shias during periods of tension, it has neither tried to expel them from their strongholds nor moved to reduce their capabilities significantly. In the wake of the 20 September bombing of the US Embassy Annex in Beirut, for example, Syria appeared to be about to crack down severely on the activities of the Hizballah in the Bekaa Valley. After an initial show of force, however, Damascus backed away again. It now appears that Damascus is trying to establish a degree of control over the radical Shias so they can be used—like Palestinian groups such as Saiqa and the Abu Nidal Group—to serve Syrian interests.

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In our judgment, even if Syria were to try to totally stifle the Hizballah, it would not succeed. Shia terrorists, in Beirut at least, would retain sufficient capabilities to pose a continuing threat to Syrian interests as well as Israeli and Western interests. The Syrian policy of attempting to co-opt the Shia extremists may be in part a pragmatic response to the government's recognition of its inability to completely control them and of the consequent dangers of trying to do so.

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The Origins of the Shia Extremists

Although Muslims of the Shia branch of Islam constitute the largest confessional group in Lebanon, they have never shared equitably in the nation's wealth or the exercise of political power; instead, Christians and Sunni Muslims have dominated the political scene and enjoyed a disproportionate share of the wealth. Shia resentment began to crystallize in the mid-1970s under the charismatic leadership of the Imam Musa Sadr, who demanded economic and

political reforms to redress Shia grievances. The political-military organization that he founded, known as Amal (Hope), encouraged the Shias to abandon their traditional passivity and improve their situation by political and religious activism. The Iranian revolution in December 1979 and the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon (where Shias predominate) in June 1982 galvanized the Shias and set the stage for the emergence of radical groups prone to terrorism.

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Iran, for its part, selected Lebanon as a prime target for the export of an Iranian-style fundamentalist Islamic revolution. The growing radical Shia movement made Lebanon fertile ground for Iran's Islamic fundamentalism, and chronic instability and violence has left Lebanon vulnerable to subversion.

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Iran expanded its relations with Lebanese Shias soon after the Israeli invasion in June 1982. Iranian clerics went to Lebanon to provide religious indoctrination to the Shias and recruited some for further training in Iran. Iranian Revolutionary Guards also went to Lebanon, where they began to provide political and religious indoctrination and military training, including instruction in terrorist tactics. The Revolutionary Guards, based in the Bekaa Valley, also began to supply financial support and materiel to their Lebanese clients.

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The Imam Musa Sadr vanished during a trip to Libya in 1978. Many of his followers suspect Libyan foul play. As a consequence, a terrorist group known as the Musa Sadr Brigade, reportedly a faction of Amal, occasionally attacks Libyan targets in Lebanon and elsewhere.

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[REDACTED]

Although some of the pro-Iranian Shia extremist groups, known collectively as the Hizballah (Party of God), are based in Ba'labakk and its environs, and others are headquartered in southern Beirut, their operations have extended to West Beirut and even into southern Lebanon. Once trained by the Revolutionary Guards, the hizballahi recruit other Shias for religious indoctrination and military training, disseminate pro-Khomeini propaganda, and try to enforce Islamic law in the areas they control.

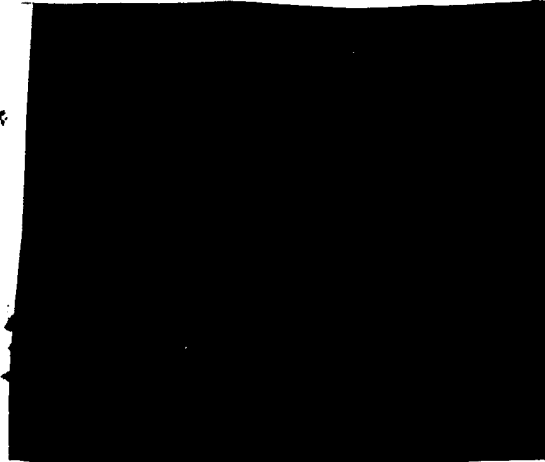
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they have the sympathy of a significant segment of the Shia population, both in the Bekaa Valley and Beirut. [REDACTED] b3

In many ways, the Hizballah groups resemble the other Lebanese confessional militias, manning checkpoints and engaging in conventional urban warfare. Unlike the other militias, however, the Hizballah have employed spectacular terrorist tactics—such as suicide vehicle bombings—to attack Western and Israeli targets. Their primary goals are to eliminate the Western presence and establish a fundamentalist Islamic state there. [REDACTED] b3

more than half were directed against elements of the MNF, including the devastating vehicle bombings of the US and French contingents, which together took 299 lives. US and French diplomatic interests also were attacked frequently; the most serious event of that type was the bombing of the US Embassy in April, which killed 63 and injured more than 100. [REDACTED] b3

Syrian Sufferance



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[REDACTED]

Syria and Iran shared some primary policy objectives in Lebanon in 1983. In particular, both wanted to see the MNF and Israeli forces withdrawn from Lebanon. The Syrians also were determined to force Lebanese President Gemayel to abrogate the troop withdrawal accord he had concluded with Israel in May. Damascus therefore condoned Hizballah terrorism against Lebanese, Western, and Israeli targets. [REDACTED] b3

Syria's Attitude Changes

Early in 1984, however, Syria's tactics and attitude toward the Lebanese Government shifted as a number of developments favorable to Syrian interests took place in Lebanon. In March the MNF contingents withdrew; in April President Gemayel scrapped the troop withdrawal accord he had signed with Israel a year earlier; and in May Prime Minister Rashid

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Karami appointed a new cabinet that included pro-Syrian opposition leaders. Consequently, Syria's primary goals in Lebanon began to diverge from those of Iran. Damascus is now working to stabilize the security situation and initiate political reforms, while Iran continues to work for the creation of a fundamentalist Islamic state through the radicalization of the Lebanese Shia community. Damascus fears that it would have little control over the leadership of such a state and that a clerical regime in Lebanon could eventually pose a serious threat to the secular government in Syria.

The evidence suggests that as the activities of the pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon began to threaten Syria's interests last spring and summer, Damascus began to impose some constraints on them:

decline can be explained by the reduced number of terrorist targets and opportunities. Syrian efforts to limit Hizballah activities also may have played a part. With the MNF gone, the principal foreign targets of the Hizballah have been US, French, and Saudi diplomatic interests, and Lebanese civilians.

Syria has only gradually imposed restrictions on the activities of Iran's assets in Lebanon, and to date the limitations fall far short of a total crackdown.

Moreover, despite clashes between Syrian troops and Hizballah gunmen, Damascus has not tried to expel the Shia extremists from their positions in the Bekaa Valley.

Syrian leaders have been reluctant to attempt a total crackdown on the pro-Iranian terrorist groups in Lebanon. A direct confrontation might jeopardize some of the economic benefits -- such as high-quality oil at low prices -- that Syria derives from its special relationship with Iran. Damascus may also fear that moving too forcefully against the extremist Lebanese Shias could provoke them to mount terrorist attacks against Syrian interests.

Decline in Shia Terrorism

The number of terrorist attacks committed by the radical Shia groups in Lebanon has declined significantly since the departure of the MNF contingents in April. During the first three months of 1984, extremist Shias probably were responsible for 24 terrorist attacks in Lebanon, compared with 18 during the following six months. While most of this

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Outlook

Judging from Assad's reaction to the latest Hizballah bombing, Syrian tolerance for such activities is probably not unlimited. Should new Hizballah operations—such as attacks on Western diplomatic facilities—threaten to further destabilize the security situation in Lebanon, Damascus might move more forcefully against the pro-Iranian groups. For example, Syria could significantly weaken Hizballah capabilities by expelling the Iranian Revolutionary Guards ~~from Lebanon~~. Even just closing the military and staging facilities in the area would be a major blow to both the Hizballah and Iranian Revolutionary Guards. ~~_____~~

Even if the Syrians were to try, they almost certainly would not be able to completely eliminate Hizballah capabilities or activities in Lebanon. The most fanatic among the Lebanese Shia extremists—exemplified by the suicide bombers—would not be dissuaded even by direct Syrian opposition from pursuing their fundamentalist objectives. ~~_____~~

If the Hizballah were to lose their staging areas ~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~ As the September bombing clearly demonstrated, radical Shia capabilities are not limited to Muslim areas of the capital. Consequently, regardless of what Syria does or tries to do in Lebanon, US and other Western interests will continue to be at risk from Hizballah terrorists. ~~_____~~
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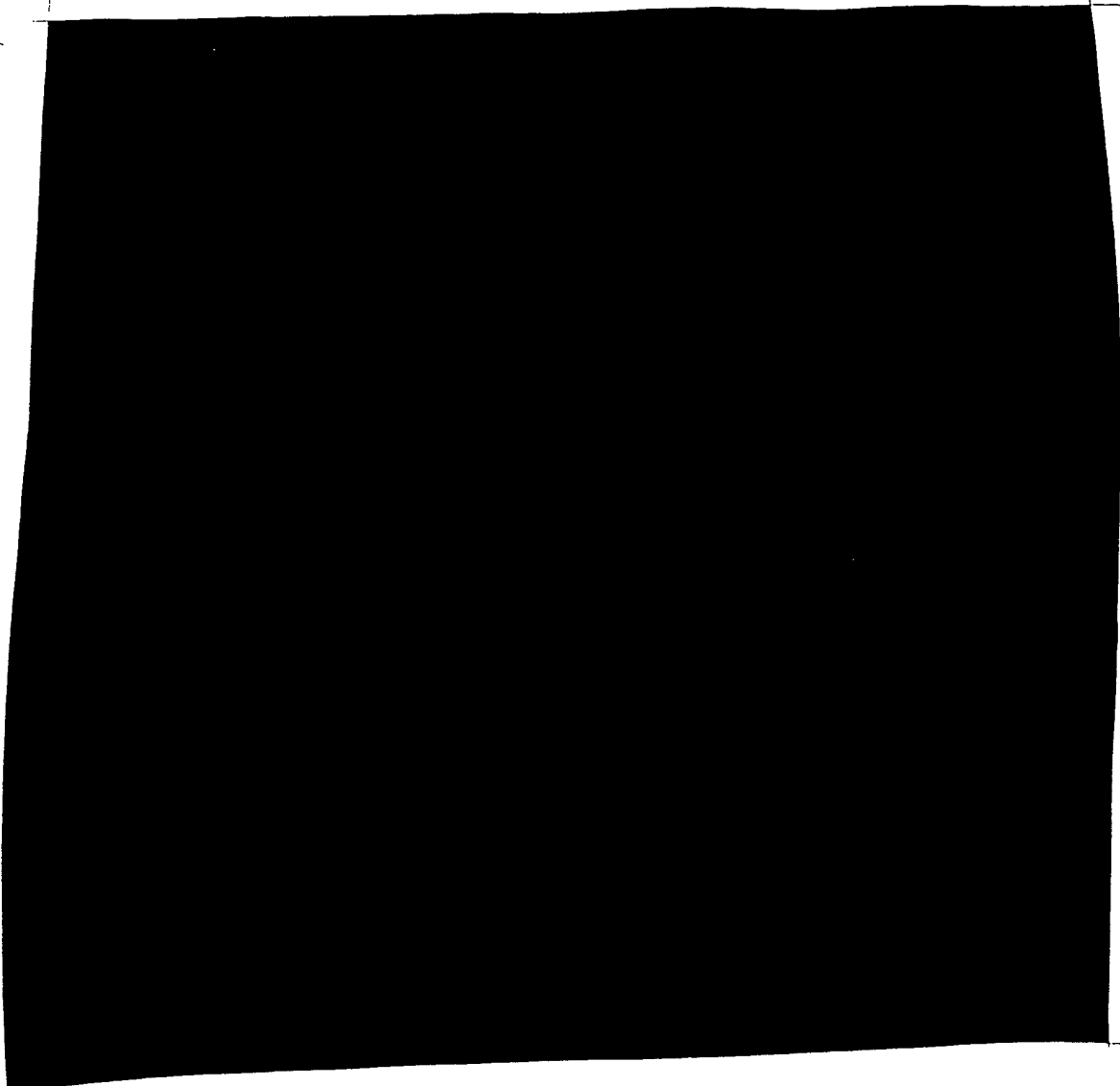
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Exit From Terrorism

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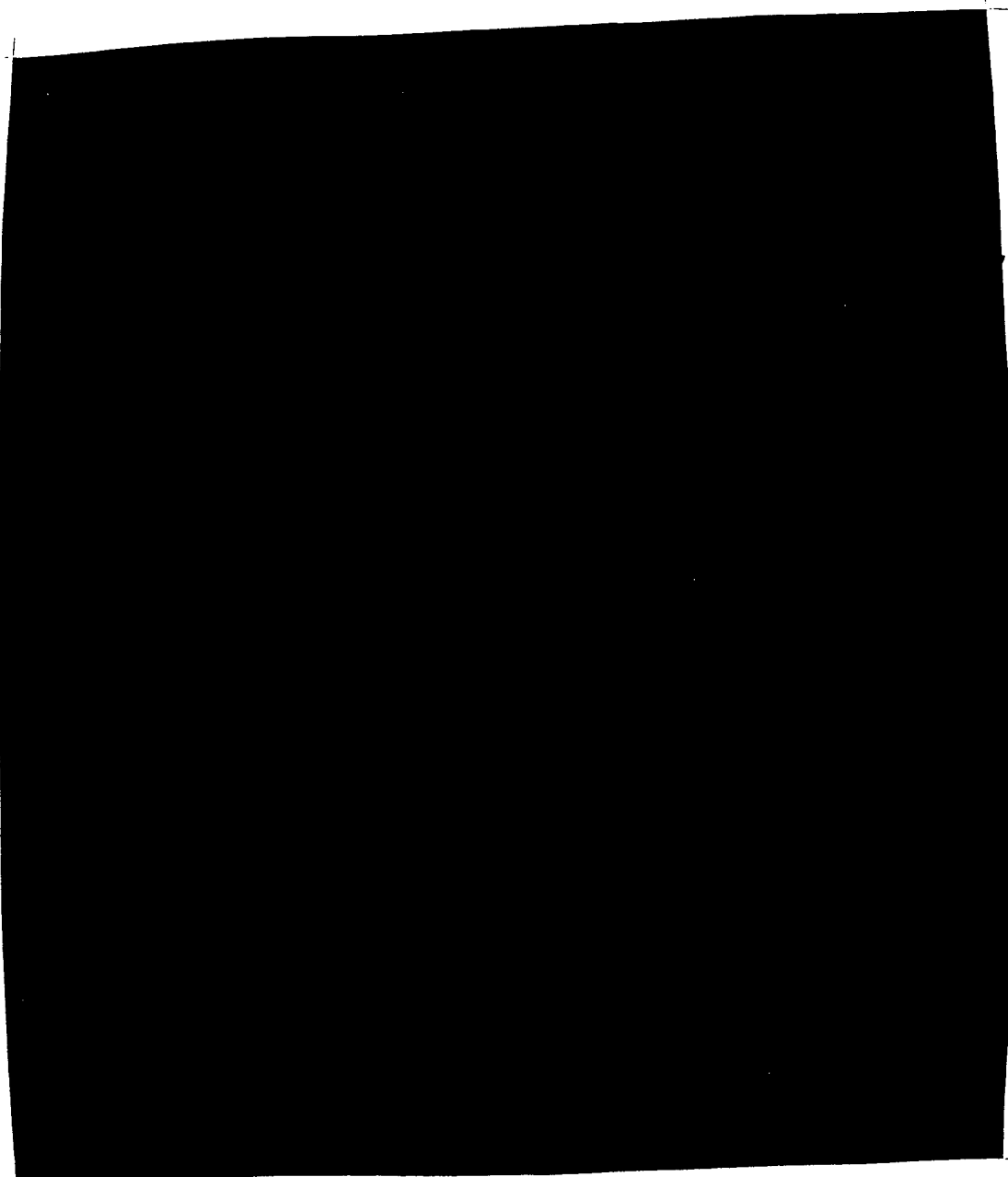
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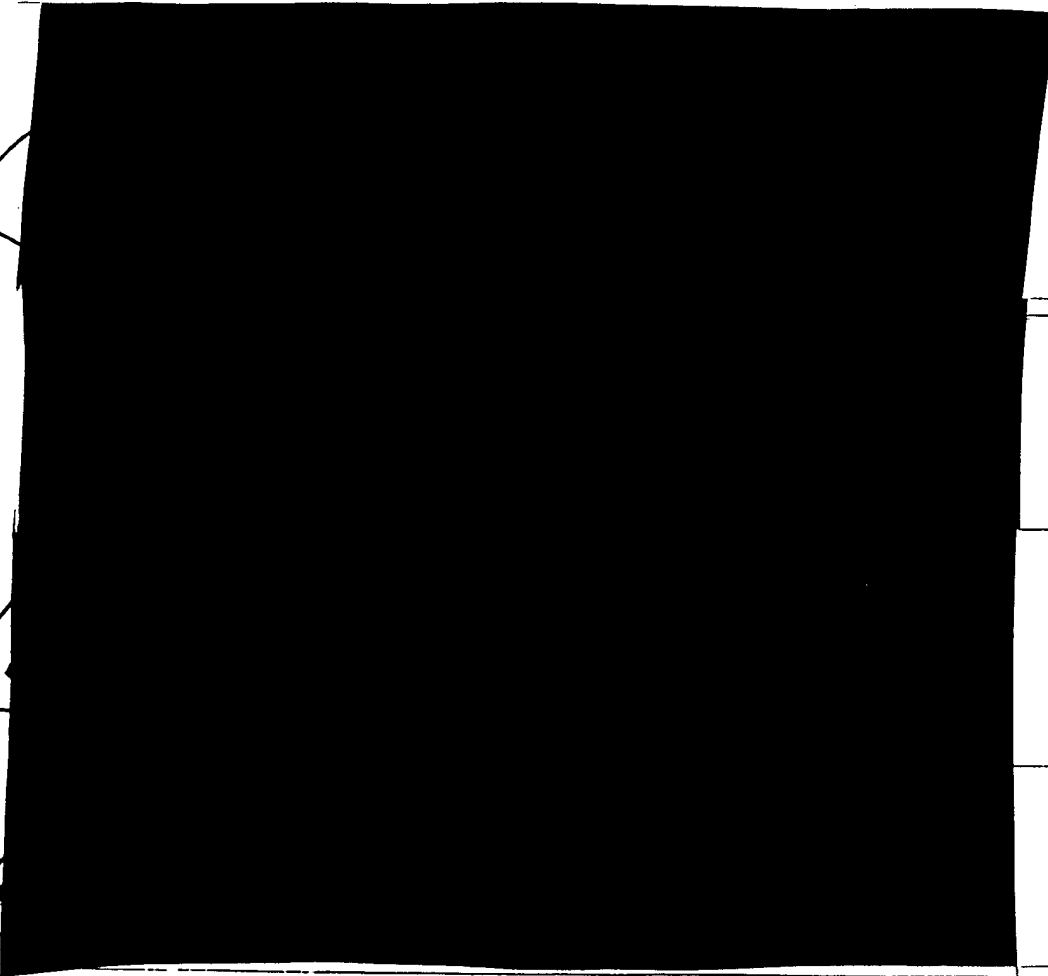
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Publications of Interest



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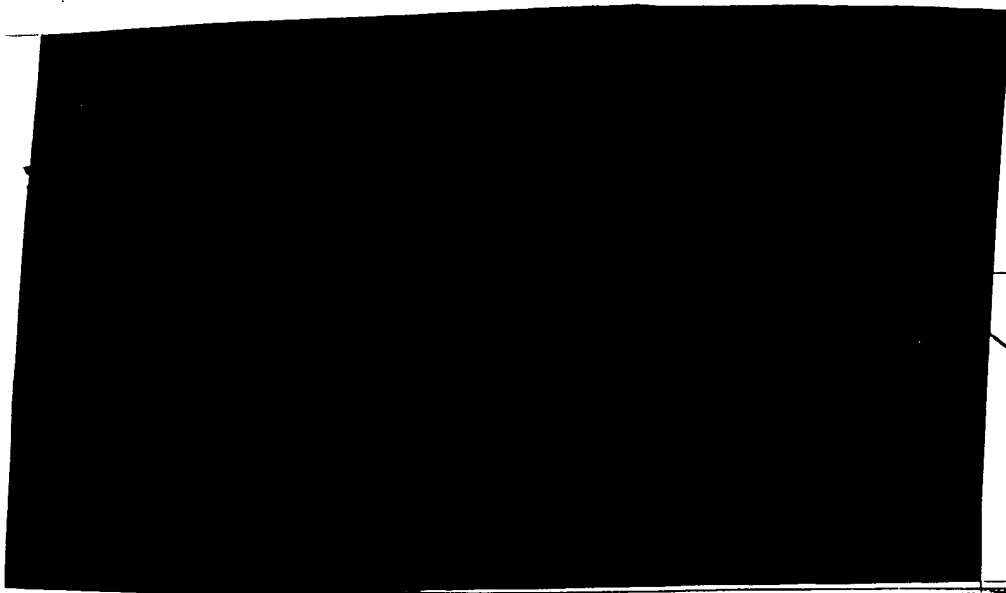
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Chronology of Terrorism—1984

Below are described noteworthy foreign and international terrorist events and counterterrorism developments that have occurred or come to light since our last issue. Events and developments that have already been described in previous issues are not included unless new information has surfaced. Asterisks denote events covered elsewhere in this issue in greater detail.

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Early September

West Bank: Fatah Official Captured

Near Hebron, Israeli security forces arrested Ali Halil Riba'i, believed to be a senior Fatah leader on the West Bank. [REDACTED] Israeli security officials had been trying to capture Riba'i for 14 years, after the rest of his cell was destroyed in the early 1970s.

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21 September

[REDACTED]

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Late September

[REDACTED]

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*Mauritania: Polisario Attacks Foreign Vessel

Off the Mauritanian coast, a group of unidentified men in an assault raft, probably from Polisario, the Western Saharan liberation movement, attacked a Togolese cargo ship with rocket-grenades and small-arms fire. No serious damage or casualties occurred.

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November 1984

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Chronology of Terrorism—1984

4 October

Spain: ETA Bombs Telephone Exchange

In Begona, members of Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) were responsible for a bombing that damaged banking transmission networks. b3

7 October

Turkey: Dev Yol Terrorist Executed

In Izmir, a former member of Dev Yol was executed for the murder of a night watchman. [REDACTED] This was the first execution of a convicted terrorist under the current government. b3

9 October

Spain: ETA Bombing Injures Three People

In Elgoibar, suspected members of ETA/M detonated a bomb that wounded three people and damaged three vehicles. b3

11 October

Yugoslavia: Albanian Nationalists Sentenced

In Pristina, 10 Albanian nationalists received prison sentences for terrorist activities that included planting bombs in various parts of Kosovo since 1981. Four others were convicted for distributing hostile propaganda. b3

13 October

Malta: Two Unclaimed Bombings

In Valletta, a bomb exploded at a government computer center, causing extensive damage to the building, but no injuries. Elsewhere in the capital another explosion resulted in minor damage to a church-affiliated school. No claims of responsibility were received for either incident, but we suspect they were related to a controversy over parochial schools currently raging on the island. b3

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Chronology of Terrorism—1984

Mid-October

Belgium: FCC Bombings Continue

On 15 October in Brussels, a bomb seriously damaged a building used by the Belgian Liberal Party. On 17 October in Ghent, the fifth terrorist bombing of the month occurred at the headquarters of Prime Minister Martens's Democratic Party. Both bombings caused severe damage but no casualties. The Fighting Communist Cells (FCC) claimed credit. b3

15 October

*Portugal: FP-25 Bombs French Targets

Asserting solidarity with the Basque separatist ETA, the Portuguese left wing terrorist group FP-25, most of whose members are in prison awaiting trial, claimed credit for planting five small bombs—four at Portuguese branches of the French-based Credit Franco-Portugais and one at the office of a French insurance agency. Only two exploded, causing minor damage and no injuries; the others were defective and proved to be made of nine-year-old dynamite. b3

16 October

Gaza Strip: Bomb Defused

In Gaza, security forces safely defused a bomb discovered in a square near the Israeli administration building. No group has claimed responsibility for placing the bomb. b3

16-17 October

FPMR Bombing Campaign

In Santiago, the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) claimed credit for a series of bombings of powerlines, banks, and various municipal and private buildings. In Rancagua and Talca, bombs caused extensive damage to the Chilean-North American Cultural Institute and the Chilean Agricultural Center. Three persons were injured, and eight regions of the country were blacked out for several hours. b3

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Chronology of Terrorism—1984

17 October

Spain: ETA Shoots Policeman

In Renteria, members of ETA shot and killed a Spanish policeman. b3

Chile: Communist Youths Briefly Occupy Argentine Embassy

In Santiago, 10 members of the National Youth Command briefly occupied the Argentine Embassy. The Communist-affiliated group made a number of demands, including that the Chilean Government reinstate 14 Communist copperworkers fired for participating in an illegal strike. They also requested that Argentina intervene on their behalf with the Chilean Government and bring their demands to the attention of the United Nations. b3

17-24 October

Netherlands: Bomb Threats to Diplomatic Installations

The American, British, and French Embassies and the American Consulate were the targets of bomb threats, at least two of which turned out to be hoaxes. The authors are unknown. b3

19 October

Northern Ireland: PIRA Shootings

In West Belfast, one British soldier was killed and a second was seriously wounded when elements of the Provisional IRA ambushed a joint army and police patrol. In Dungannon, 60 kilometers northwest of Belfast, a civilian died when he was caught in a crossfire between British troops and PIRA terrorists. b3

Ethiopia: TPLF Kidnaps Foreigners

In Lalibela, insurgents of the Tigrean People's Liberation Front (TPLF) seized about eight foreign hostages, including two Americans, when they overran the town. There is no evidence that the foreigners were the targets of the attack, and efforts are under way within Ethiopia and in Sudan to persuade the TPLF to free them. b3

*Sudan: Anya Nya Releases Captive Priests

In Mayom, the three priests who had been captured by the insurgent group Anya Nya II in an attack on the town of Bentiu on 4 September were freed unharmed. b3

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Chronology of Terrorism—1984

20 October

Peru: Sendero Luminoso Attacks

In Huanayo, Sendero Luminoso guerrillas attacked police stations and government facilities, killing 10 civil guards. President Belaunde has ordered the Army into the area, enacted a state of emergency, and suspended constitutional rights for 60 days. b3

20-21 October

France: Action Directe Bombings

On 20 October in a Paris suburb, a bomb exploded in an office building, injuring two people. Police suspect the anarchist group Action Directe was responsible. On 21 October another explosion damaged an aviation company research facility; Action Directe claimed responsibility. On the same day a Paris shop was bombed by unknown persons, causing damage but no injuries. b3

20-23 October

Peru: Mass Graves Discovered

In Huanta, north of Ayacucho, 52 bodies unearthed in three locations showed signs of torture and were covered with banners bearing the hammer-and-sickle symbol. Although press reports state the victims had been killed by the Sendero Luminoso as informers, the Interior Minister suggested they may have been insurgents killed in combat. b3

21 October

Northern Ireland: Three PIRA Bombings

In Newry, three bombs exploded during the night causing damage at two garages and a shop but no injuries. The PIRA is believed responsible. b3

Brazil-Argentina: Montonero Leader Extradicted

Mario Eduardo Firmenich, head of the Peronist Montoneros, a terrorist group active in the mid-1970s until decimated by the Argentine military regime, was extradited from Brazil to Argentina to face charges of murder, kidnapping, and extortion. b3

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Chronology of Terrorism—1984

22 October

Portugal: FP-25 Bombs Farmer's Home

In Evora, members of the Popular Forces of 25 April claimed responsibility for a bomb explosion at a farmer's home. b3

*Sri Lanka: Tamil Terrorist Bombs in Colombo

Ten of 13 bombs planted in various public locations around Colombo by Tamil separatist terrorists exploded, killing three and injuring 11. b3

24 October

Spain: Anti-French Attacks by ETA Continue

In Noain, suspected members of ETA bombed a French-owned clothes factory. In the evening, a French truck on the Bilbao-Behovia highway was shot at; ETA/M claimed responsibility. No one was injured in the attacks, but damage was extensive. b3

Lebanon: AP Employees Abducted and Released

In West Beirut, unidentified gunmen abducted four Lebanese employees of the Associated Press news service and [redacted] took them to the Shia suburb of Ouzai. Amal leader Nabih Barri secured their release the following day. No group claimed responsibility for the abduction, but one of the kidnapers told the victims they were not members of either the Amal militia or the Druze Progressive Socialist Party. b3

Chile: Nine Anonymous Bombings

Santiago and Concepcion were the scene of nine bombing attacks. Targets included government buildings, businesses, and transportation and energy-related facilities. One person was seriously injured. No group has claimed responsibility. b3

Pakistan: Movie Theater Bombed

In Peshawar, at least three persons were killed and another 30 wounded when a bomb destroyed a movie theater owned by a prominent local politician. No one has claimed responsibility for the act, but a political motive is suspected. The owner had changed his party's name the previous day from the "Frontier National Democratic Party" (NDP) to the "Pakhtoonkhwa NDP," signifying increased support for tribal separatists advocating a Pashtun nation. b3

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Chronology of Terrorism—1984

25 October

Italy: ARB Attacks UAE Envoy

In Rome, a gunman fired on the car of the vice consul of the United Arab Emirates, badly wounding him and killing a female Iranian student riding with him. The Arab Revolutionary Brigades, which we suspect may be a name used by elements of the Abu Nidal Group, later claimed responsibility for the attack. b3

26 October

Malta: Bombing at British Facility

Near Valletta, an explosion outside the office of the British High Commission shattered windows in nearby buildings and damaged a vehicle but caused no casualties. A second bomb was found in a public garden nearby, after it had failed to detonate. No one has claimed responsibility. b3

29 October

***Portugal: RPG Attack Against US Embassy**

In Lisbon, two rocket-propelled grenades mounted on improvised launchers and aimed at the new US Embassy were discovered in a field about 65 meters away. They had failed to fire because of a malfunction. No one claimed credit for the attack. b3

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